

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m. the Mayor called the meeting to order and the Township Clerk stated adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting the same on the bulletin board of Town Hall and forwarding a copy to the Courier News and Star Ledger at least forty-eight hours prior to this meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present:

Gentiana Brahimaj
Manuel Couto
Jeanne Kingsley
Alvaro Medeiros
Jeff Varnerin
Stephen Yellin
Angie D. Devanney, Mayor

Also present were:

Township Attorney: Chris Corsini
Township Administrator: Liza Viana
Township Clerk: Ana Minkoff

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Devanney asked everyone present to stand for the Flag Salute.

PROCLAMATION

Sergeant Michael Gallaro - Retirement

The Mayor read a Proclamation which publicly thanked Sergeant Gallaro for his many years of public service and wished him the very best in the future.

Chief Massimino spoke about Sergeant Gallaro, wishing him well and thanking him for his service.

Captain Schmidt spoke about Sergeant Gallaro, wishing him well and thanking him for his service.

Mr. Gallaro was present and thanked everyone for their support and kind words.

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation and well wishes to Sergeant Gallaro.

Westminster Nursery School – 50th Year Anniversary

The Mayor read a Proclamation which recognized Westminster Nursery School on the school's 50th Anniversary and ongoing service to the community.

Mr. Romankow, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Nursery School and thanked the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Romankow expressed his thanks and appreciation for Sergeant Gallaro and wished him well.

Black History Month

The Mayor read a Proclamation which publicly declared February 2021 as Black History Month.

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CONFERENCE SESSION – Patricia Jacobs – Presentation of age-friendly initiative

Ms. Jacobs spoke about work she has recently done to assess and improve the experience and “livability” of a neighboring municipality for aging residents. She spoke about age-friendliness and programs that can be explored or implemented in Berkeley Heights.

Councilmembers provided feedback and asked questions. A discussion followed.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmembers provided Council Reports and Committee updates.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Devanney provided the Mayor’s Report.

Ms. Viana provided the Administrator’s Report

Approval of Township Council and Administration Reports

Mover: Mr. Varnerin

Seconder: Mr. Yellin

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Result: *Approved*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes: Public Meeting – June 9, 2020, June 16, 2020, June 19, 2020, and June 23, 2020

Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj

Seconder: Mrs. Kingsley

Mr. Yellin noted some questions with the minutes for the June 23, 2020 meeting and suggested that they be resolved before approving.

Approval of Minutes: Public Meeting – June 9, 2020, June 16, 2020, and June 19, 2020

Mover: Mr. Yellin

Seconder: Mrs. Kingsley

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Varnerin

Absent: None

Result: *Approved*

HEARING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Opening of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mr. Yellin

Seconder: Mrs. Kingsley

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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Mayor Devanney read a statement regarding the procedures for public comment given the virtual (ZOOM) meeting.

No voices were heard.

Closing of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mr. Yellin
Second: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution approving Bill List dated February 16, 2021 in the amount of \$1,637,521.78.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Couto
Second: Mr. Varnerin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Result: Approved

2. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a proposal from AWT Environmental Services, Inc. for the loading, transportation, and disposal of non-hazardous soil located at the Public Works yard, in the estimated amount of \$232,450.00.

Mr. Couto and Mr. Medeiros provided some information on the resolution.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Medeiros
Second: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Result: Approved

3. Resolution authorizing a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Varnerin
Second: Mr. Yellin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

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Result: Approved

4. Resolution authorizing a Shared Space Agreement with the Library.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mrs. Kingsley

Second: Mr. Couto

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Yellin

Absent: None

Result: Approved

5. Resolution appointing Economic Planning Group (EPG) as Retirement Planning Specialist for the calendar year ending December 31, 2021.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Yellin

Second: Mr. Varnerin

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Result: Approved

6. Resolution authorizing a Sustainable Land Use Pledge.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Couto

Second: Mrs. Kingsley

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Result: Approved

7. Resolution authorizing the Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy developed by the Townships Green Team.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Medeiros

Second: Mr. Yellin

Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Result: Approved

8. Resolution approving transfer of current fund appropriation reserves.

Approval of Resolution

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Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj
Second: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted upon by one motion; there will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

9. Consent Agenda Resolutions (a)

- a. Resolution authorizing a release of a cash bond in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Lockhern Associates LLC, for work performed at 430 Springfield Avenue.

Approval of Consent Agenda Resolutions # 9 a

Mover: Mr. Couto
Second: Mr. Yellin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Public Hearing and Final Adoption Scheduled for March 2, 2021.

The Clerk presented and read:

**“AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 2.99 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS ENTITLED “SENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE.”**

That the Ordinance as read by the Township Clerk be offered on first reading and that March 2, 2021 be set as the date of Public Hearing and that the Township Clerk is directed to advertise same in the Courier News

Mover: Mrs. Kingsley
Second: Mr. Yellin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

CITIZENS HEARING

Opening of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mr. Medeiros
Second: Mr. Yellin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None

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Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mr. Carrellas of 35 Sycamore Avenue spoke about the specific changes made to the Land Use resolutions since they were originally presented. He shared his support for the revisions and Council's transparency.

Mrs. Minkoff read questions submitted via email by Mr. Doney of 44 Apple Tree Road regarding snow removal and equipment. Mrs. Minkoff also read Mr. Graziano's response which was sent via email to Mr. Doney.

Closing of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mr. Medeiros
Second: Mr. Yellin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

1. Attorney-Client Privilege – Contract Negotiations – Nokia

Move to go into Executive Session

(8:28 p.m.)

Mover: Mrs. Kingsley
Second: Mr. Varnerin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Varnerin, Mr. Yellin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

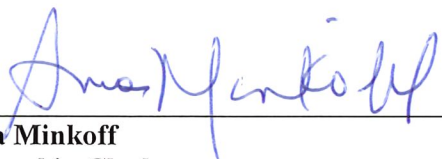
Mayor Devanney reminded all that they will be coming out of Executive Session only to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Varnerin to adjourn and all were in favor.

(9:09 p.m.)

Approved: April 6, 2021



Ana Minkoff
Township Clerk